"Virtually all the land was built by coral polyps. The only igneous rock in sight anywhere on it is a single boulder on Falālap. This, the natives say, was brought by canoe in ancient times, as a whetstone for their adzes. Where it came from is no longer remembered.

Thin ledges of beach sandstone, compacted mainly from foramenifera, run along the seaward reef between high and low water mark in a number of places.

The consistency of the soil ranges from a fine muck in the taro swamps to piled blocks that form the highest land, just inshore from the seaward beaches. The lagoon shore of Falārik, and both sides of the channel between the two main islands, are [13] bordered by a broad strip of sand. Except where it is washed by the sea, this is colored gray by mixture with vegetable matter. All the houses on Falārik, and some of those on Falālap, are on this sandy strip. Between the sand of the lagoon side and the boulders of the seaward side, most of the soil consists of gravel of varying degrees of coarseness, mixed with some sand and humus.

The hollow center of Falālap is a quagmire. Stamping on the wet muck will make it quake perhaps 20 feet away. This swamp is the main source of taro for the people of both islands. Four little swampy depressions near the north end of Falārik are also planted to taro; but their contribution to the food supply is important only to a few households.

Although the land is too flat to form a watershed, drainage is rapid (except in the taro

swamp) because of the extremely porous character of the soil. Puddles formed by a heavy downpour soon disappear. However, water seems to lie only a few feet below the surface everywhere. Artificial water-holes are scattered about the interior of Falārik. Hollow places are boggy most of the time. A hole being dug for the corner-post of a canoe-house began to fill with water at a depth of about four feet."

6: Senfft--53
116, 134, 136, 137

(no date) 1905

Woleaians
Woleai

The soil seems to be altogether coralline. There are no mountainous regions, and the vegetation is abundant. In spite of the thin layer of humus, the usual plant products of atolls are found here, chiefly coconut palms, which are strong and healthy, large breadfruit trees, pandanus, bananas, Calophyllum, marshmallow, arrowroot, some sugar cane, taro, Cystosperma edulis, and curcuma. There are few mangroves, and no bamboo or areca.

The fauna consists of pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, rats, and sea and land birds; there are few beetles and butterflies.